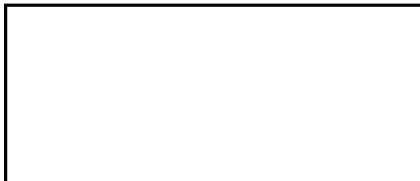
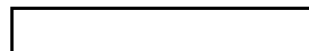


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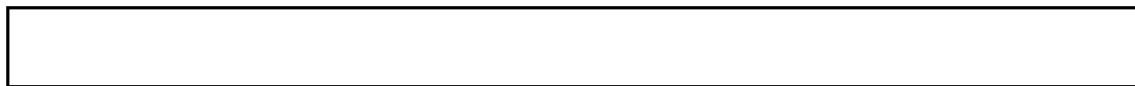


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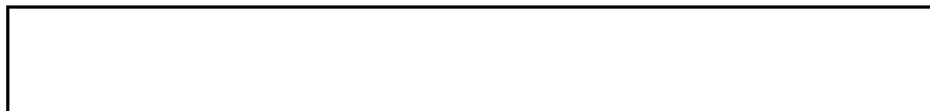
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1. East Germany: Ulbricht speaks to Party Congress. (Page 1)



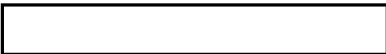
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4. Iraq: Popular hostility toward Qasim regime increases. (Page 6)



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6. Near East - UK: UAR and Yemen may launch new propaganda attacks against UK. (Page 8)

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*East Germany: In his opening speech to the Sixth Party Congress, as summarized by the official East German news agency, party boss Ulbricht took a generally more reasonable position than usual on international issues. On domestic matters, he was more realistic but gave no indication that any amelioration of his stringent policies will be forthcoming.

While his discussion of the Berlin issue was notably moderate in tone, Ulbricht--to make recent Soviet proposals more palatable to party functionaries--represented the formula under which Allied forces would remain in West Berlin under some form of UN aegis as only the first step in a "gradual settlement" of the Berlin problem. Khrushchev has maintained that all differences with the West over Berlin have already been resolved except for the troop question.

Ulbricht also insisted that any solution accord the East Germans control over access routes, but on the general problem of US-Soviet negotiations, he specifically deferred to Khrushchev who is speaking this morning.

In the field of East German - West German relations, the German leader left the door open to further talks on Bonn's proposal that interzonal trade credits be tied to a relaxation of the East German ban on the entry of West Berliners into East Berlin. He emphasized, at the same time, his unwillingness

to make any concessions implying recognition of West Berlin's ties with West Germany.

The First Secretary apparently did not comment extensively on the Sino-Soviet dispute, probably because he was aware that a fuller and more authoritative statement on this problem will also be forthcoming from Khrushchev today. In his criticism of the Chinese, however, Ulbricht introduced an element not previously mentioned by bloc leaders--Peiping's failure to give advance notice to the bloc of its intention to attack India.

Discussing the economic outlook, the East German leader declared that "hard necessities" will determine the regime's future economic planning. The new seven-year plan envisages an annual industrial growth of 7.2 percent. While this goal is more within the country's capabilities than the overly ambitious goals set at the 1958 congress, it is higher than the rate--about 6 percent--at which industrial production increased in 1961 and 1962.

In his treatment of the problems which have plagued agriculture since the collectivization campaign of 1960, Ulbricht called for sweeping changes in party management and the establishment of a new agricultural bureau in the party politburo. This bureau, with subordinate organizations reaching down to the county level, will be responsible for directly guiding all agricultural enterprises.

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Iraq: Popular hostility toward the Qasim regime appears to be increasing, but Qasim's confidence in his own position remains unshaken.

Country-wide student strikes are continuing. They began on 20 December with clashes between Communist and Arab nationalist student demonstrators, and have been used by the regime as an excuse to move against anti-Qasim teachers and student leaders.

Troops have taken over Baghdad University. Over a thousand students reportedly have been imprisoned and many seriously injured. Communist students, however, are not participating in the strike and are being protected by the government.

Qasim's willingness to antagonize popular opinion by taking such harsh measures against students apparently stems from supreme confidence in his invulnerability.

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Near East - UK: The UAR and Yemeni governments are certain to launch a new wave of propaganda attacks against the United Kingdom in reaction to diplomatic actions which London is taking.

London plans to announce today that it is resuming relations with Saudi Arabia, broken off in 1956, and to publicize conclusion of a treaty for the merger of Aden Colony and Aden Protectorate--a move long opposed by Yemeni nationalists. London has decided to defer recognition of the Yemeni revolutionary government "for a while longer," and, in order to protect its minister to Yemen, has summoned him home for consultations.

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NOTES

Communist China - UK: Peiping may purchase up to 14 used Bristol Britannia 102 turboprop airliners now in BOAC surplus stocks. The Chinese earlier contracted for six new Viscounts, to be delivered this year. Many Soviet IL-14 (Crate) transports now in Peiping's civil air inventory are service-worn, and there is no evidence that they are being replaced by other Soviet aircraft.

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Ivory Coast: President Houphouet Boigny, having thwarted an assassination plot, is now moving to purge the government and the country's single political party. The plotters included members of radical youth groups, several civil servants, and a few military personnel. The plot may have sprung out of resentment over attempts by Houphouet's fellow tribesmen to increase their already considerable predominance in top government jobs.

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South Korea: The ruling junta is resorting to a threat of assassination in an effort to silence criticism by General Song Yo-chang, a former prime minister. Song is a dangerous opponent who has considerable support in the armed forces and has inside knowledge of the junta's activities. The junta's tactic is reminiscent of the Rhee regime, during which threats or assassinations silenced a number of critics of the government.

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East-West Trade: Efforts to get COCOM approval of restrictions on sale of large-diameter oil pipe to the Soviet Union are running into an impasse. Japan claims that the recent weak NATO resolution against such shipments would not justify its attempting to enforce strict controls, and that without a clear-cut embargo decision in COCOM, it will be unable to resist pressure from its industry. Great Britain, however, is still reluctant to support even the NATO resolution in COCOM.

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